

Marlow Men at Jutland

May - June 1916

Around 100,000 men took part in the Battle of Jutland. The British lost over 6,000 men killed, including two men from Marlow.

HMS Queen Mary

HMS Queen Mary was the last battlecruiser built by the Royal Navy before the First World War. At Jutland, she was hit twice during the early part of the battle and her magazines exploded shortly afterwards, sinking the ship. 1,266 crewmen were lost, with only 20 survivors being rescued.

Among those who were killed was 24 year old Leading Stoker Charles Gregory. Charles was born in Burnham in 1891 and is commemorated on Burnham War Memorial. His parents settled in Maidenhead where his father was an agricultural worker. Charles married Winifred Allen and their family home was in Station Villas in Marlow.

The wreck of HMS Queen Mary was discovered in 1991 and rests in pieces on the floor of the North Sea.



Photograph of the wreck of HMS Queen Mary



Photo of HMS Malaya, taken shortly after the First World War

HMS Malaya

The other casualty from Marlow was Ernest George Mayden. Ernest was born in 1886, the son of George and Sarah Mayden, of Chinnor. He was married to Rosina Lillian Mayden and lived in Marlow before the War. He was employed as a civilian auxiliary on HMS Malaya, serving as a canteen assistant.

HMS Malaya was launched in 1915 and was named in honour of the Federated Malay States in British Malaya, whose government paid for her construction and whose flag she flew. At Jutland, she was hit eight times.

A total of 65 men on the ship died, in the battle or later of their injuries. Ernest was amongst those wounded and died on 3 June. He is buried with other men from the First World War in Rosskeen Parish Churchyard in Scotland.



Other Marlow Men

In the week after Jutland, the South Bucks Free Press included the names of three other Marlow men who survived the battle. Local people first found out about the battle when one of them, Walter Nott, sent a private telegram to let his family know that he was safe.



Rosskeen Parish Churchyard Extensions where Ernest Mayden is buried. Photo courtesy of Commonwealth War Graves Commission.